

**PATENT APPLICATION**

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 1722**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Takehiro KATA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1722

Application No.: 09/431,154

Examiner: J. Mackey

Filed: November 1, 1999

Docket No.: 104639

For: VULCANIZING MOLD FOR PNEUMATIC TIRES

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION UNDER 37 CFR §1.116**

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the March 6, 2003 Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace claim 6 as follows:

6. (Three Times Amended) A vulcanizing method for vulcanizing pneumatic tires with a vulcanizing mold which comprises: (i) upper and lower base plates; (ii) upper and lower sidewall mold members attached to said upper and lower base plates, respectively; and (iii) upper and lower tread mold members attached to said upper and lower base plates, respectively, the upper and lower tread mold members being in direct engagement with a cam ring; (iv) said upper and lower tread mold members being constituted of upper segments and lower segments, respectively, which are radially expanded and contracted relative to the upper and lower sidewall mold members, respectively; said method comprising the steps of:

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